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ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

ON WITH THE CANAL.

The New York Commercial is enthusiastic over the Panama canal proposition, as all eastern journals should be, and urges the movement to hasten the work. Says the New York paper:

The action of the senate of the United States in ratifying the Panama Canal treaty will constitute a red letter event in not only the history of this republic but in that of the civilized world. It is the crowning initial step in an enterprise that is destined to work a revolution in the commerce of the globe, and in a multitude of relations between the occident and the orient.

An interoceanic waterway at Panama is equivalent to the bridging of the Pacific. The only similar enterprise comparable with it in the importance comparable with it in importance of its bearing on the welfare of the human race is the Suez canal. It is no wonder that President Roosevelt has desired that his administration should be signalized by the actual inception of this momentous undertaking. His name is destined to be linked with it along with that of Ferdinand De Lesseps. That which the great Frenchman conceived and planned the energetic New Yorker has been largely instrumental in bringing to pass.

A very gratifying feature of the senate's action is the beggarly showing that was made to the opposition to the treaty. On the final vote to ratify that instrument the result stood 66 yeas to 14 nays. This fact is obscured by reason of the senate rule that requires, in the ratification of treaties, that pairs shall be two to one, a two-thirds vote being necessary to ratify a treaty. As there are 33 democratic senators, all told, the ratification of the Panama compact must, therefore, be regarded as a non-partisan should be the case. The proposed canal is chiefly a commercial project, and, in addition, many democratic statesmen, both living and dead, have been earnest, eloquent and consistent advocates of either this or some other isthmian waterway.

Now that all obstacles to the inauguration of actual work on the canal have been removed, it is to be hoped that the business of construction will be pushed with unsparing vigor. Events in the orient are marching apace swiftly in these recent years, and no one can tell what moment they may take a turn that would make the existence of a canal at the Panama neck a matter of the supreme importance to this nation. We have silly-sallied and dwaddled long enough with the project; let us do so no longer!

NAVIES FOR COAST DEFENSE.

Those who annually oppose the gradual and necessary increase of our navy seem to take no note of the changed conditions of national defense which the perfection of steel ships and long range guns has brought about, says the Ledger. Nor do they seem to remember the vast increase in our national wealth that we have made recently and are still making, nor the vast stretch of sea coast which we must protect if this rapidly increasing wealth is to remain ours, and the process by means of which it is accumulated are to continue undisturbed. Individuals who accumulate wealth invariably take the necessary means to protect it and these needs are multiplied as the need for them increases. The necessity for this is recognized. If any should neglect such precautions, his improvidence would be immediately noted. He would become the prey of every marauder, and none would pity him. What is necessary and proper for individuals is in still greater degree necessary and proper for nations.

Nearly a quarter of a century ago, Mr. Samuel J. Tilden, one of the greatest leaders of the party in which most opponents of our navy are now found, in one of the ablest of the many able papers of which he was the author, pointed out the need for improving our coast defenses. Such defenses as we had at that time he declared to be worthless, or nearly so, and he characterized our improvidence in this respect as little less than scandalous. What he recommended for his time was good for his time, but it is so no longer. Coast fortifications at the present day are of comparatively little value. Few, if any, of the great cities could be made impregnable now as they might have been made then by land defenses.

Neither New York, Boston, nor San Francisco could be so defended. Either could be shelled by the fleets of England, France, Germany, Russia, Italy, Spain, Japan or Chile without passing a single outwork.

It is easy to concentrate great fleets at an exposed point at the present day that it is next to impossible, except at such expense that it is no longer to be thought of, to defend a vast coast like ours by land works. It is vastly cheaper to build floating forts like the Oregon and Wisconsin, or the Monterey or Puritan. These can be sent to any point where danger threatens. In case of need they will serve at once for San Francisco or Puget sound. But we must have as many of them as the protection of our wealth demands. We shall defend ourselves more cheaply as well as more certainly by having more, rather than fewer, than occasion may ever require.

THE POPULIST CANDIDATE.

It seems that the populist party, of which quite a lot was heard a few years ago, prior to the time that by fusion movements the democrats absorbed the bulk of it, still enjoys an independent existence, says the Post-Intelligencer. Indeed, a national convention has been called to meet at Springfield, Ill., on July 4, for the purpose of nominating candidates for president and vice-president and adopting a national platform.

There is one considerable advantage in the resolution of the few surviving Populists to keep up an appearance of life in a moribund party. They will be in a position to furnish a refuge for Mr. Bryan in case the democratic party should finally resolve to abandon Bryanism and go back to the school of democracy exemplified by Mr. Cleveland. It should not be forgotten that in the last two national campaigns Mr. Bryan was formally nominated for the presidency by the populist party in national convention. He has always been and is now in hearty sympathy with every tenet of populism. He has given in his former allegiance to the Omaha platform several times. His friction with the older leaders of his other party rose over the fact that they refused to accept his populist doctrine as dogmas for the democrats.

Indeed, Mr. Bryan is by far the most conspicuous leader of those former populists who still profess allegiance to that party. He is the logical candidate of the populist party for the presidency, and he should certainly receive its nomination for the third term.

More significant than all else is the fact that we have commenced this new century with over 17,000,000 children in school in the United States and over 15,000,000 of these in the public schools—children of the plain people, of free, law-abiding, self-respecting people, looking up to no superiors and masters of their own lives; children well fed, well housed, well nourished, looking forward with clear, bright eyes through the open gateways of boundless opportunity in this free republic, where the highest rewards are to be won by individual enterprise and where not wealth, nor birth, nor social position, but the personal qualities of the man himself, whether he be rich or poor, are the sole title to the highest distinction and the greatest power.

The Sunday Examiner has given its readers one of the finest war maps yet issued. The map will prove of great value, as it is up-to-date and complete in every essential. The Examiner is always doing something to please the public—a most commendable habit for a newspaper to acquire.

We ought to measure our actual lot and to fulfill it; to be with all our strength that which our lot requires and allows. What is beyond it is no calling of ours. How much peace, quiet, confidence, and strength would people attain if they would go by this plain rule.

Encourage the sea wall committee. The improvement will cost a large sum of money, but the increase in the value of the property interested directly will more than pay for it. It's a good thing and everyone should push it along.

The Commoner says that reorganization means Cleveland. Well, in view of the fact that Bryanism means defeat, the democrats will doubtless take a chance with reorganization.

England's per capita wealth is said to be \$210, and yet there are hundreds of thousands of people in England who have to work for five years to earn as much money as that.

Six hundred and twenty-five million dollars were spent in Germany last year for alcoholic liquors. This is an average of \$35 per head for persons over 15 years of age.

Congress has appropriated \$8,000 to pay Kansas farmers for chickens and eggs taken without leave by soldiers in the late army maneuvers.

A single American system, the Pennsylvania, carries more freight than all the lines combined in any other nation in the world.

Build the sea wall.

DECORATING

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7:00 p.m.	Portland Union Dep.	9:40 p.m.

Way Points

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7:45 a.m.	For Portland and	11:30 a.m.
6:10 p.m.	Way Points	10:30 p.m.

SEASIDE DIVISION

8:15 a.m.	Astoria for Warren-	7:40 a.m.
11:35 a.m.	ton, Flavel Port	4:00 p.m.
5:50 p.m.	Stevens, Hammond,	10:45 a.m.
	and Seaside	

6:15 a.m.	Seaside for War-	12:50 p.m.
9:30 a.m.	renon, Flavel,	7:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m.	Hammond, Port	3:25 a.m.
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A woman who thinks she has eyes like stars always believes she would be in great danger from men if she weren't so good.